

what we can do to end these horrible crimes.

In the past 40 years, our Nation has struggled to address some of our society's worst ills: child abuse and domestic violence. Now we must confront elder abuse.

For the past 25 years, Congress has held hearings on the devastating effects of elder abuse, yet we have taken no comprehensive action. Abuse of the elderly is nothing new, but as our Nation has aged and the baby boom generation stands on the cusp of retirement, the prevalence of elder abuse will only get worse. The time to act is now. We can no longer ignore or tolerate the shame and scandal of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of our Nation's seniors.

I have long made ending elder abuse a top priority. I worked hard to develop a national criminal background check system for nursing home, home health, and other long-term care employees. While the vast majority of these employees are diligent, dedicated, and professional, it is too easy for people with abusive and criminal backgrounds to find work in long-term care. This is unacceptable. Today, seven States, including my home State of Wisconsin, are engaged in a pilot project based on my legislation which requires long-term care employers to run FBI criminal background checks on potential employees before they are hired and trusted to care for our loved ones. My hope is that upon completion of this pilot project, we will move to a national criminal background check system and protect seniors in all 50 States.

I am also a proud original cosponsor of the Elder Justice Act, which takes a number of steps to prevent and treat elder abuse. It will improve prevention and intervention by funding State and local projects that keep older Americans safe. It will ensure that health officials, social services, law enforcement, long-term care facilities, consumer advocates, and families are all working together to confront this problem; and, it will establish training programs so health professionals in both forensic pathology and geriatrics can better detect elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Finally, the bill will establish victim assistance programs, create "safe havens" for seniors in dangerous living situations, and help train law enforcement officers to prioritize and investigate cases of elder abuse.

Researchers have warned us that the reported cases of elder abuse might only be the tip of the iceberg; that is why World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is so important. We must spread the word: elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation is occurring every day and, if left unchecked, will only grow more prevalent. As I continue my efforts here in the Senate, I encourage my colleagues and Americans everywhere to join me in putting an end to this terrible scourge of elder abuse.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HONORING 17 OUTSTANDING HOOSIER DADS

• Mr. BAYH. Mr. President, it is my privilege today to pay tribute to 17 Hoosier men whose outstanding commitment to fatherhood serves as example of how responsible, involved dads can promote stronger families and raise exceptional children.

This year, I invited Hoosier children to pay tribute to their dads by writing essays about what makes their father an Outstanding Hoosier Dad.

In a nation that leads the world in absentee fatherhood, it is particularly important this Father's Day to recognize outstanding dads who are doing their part to raise bright, healthy children. Children whose fathers are absent are five times more likely to live in poverty and twice as likely to commit a crime, drop out of school or become substance abusers. The essays provided a touching reminder to all men of the impact they have when they play an active role in their children's lives.

It is an honor today to recognize the 17 Hoosier children who submitted essays and their outstanding dads by reading their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of the United States.

R. Bradley Allen, father of John Allen, South Bend
 Ronnie Asher, father of Jessica Asher, Martinsville
 Brian Bolsen, father of Brennan Bolsen, Chesterton
 Neil Day, father of Adam Day, Fort Wayne
 Chris Dixon, father of William Dixon, Bloomington
 Kevin Ford, father of Kimberly Ford, Schererville
 Jeff Gratz, father of Clare Gratz, Batesville
 Tom Gutzwiller, father of Lawson Gutzwiller, Batesville
 Samuel Hale, father of Greg Hale, Granger
 Dennis Mansfield, father of Alison Mansfield, Fort Wayne
 Matt McKaig, father of Caleb McKaig, Urbana
 Jonathan Plucker, father of Paige Plucker, Bloomington
 Frederick Richards, father of Corey Richards, Churubusco
 Andy Schultz, father of Mary Kate Schultz, DeMotte
 Mike Stefanski, father of Matthew Stefanski, Valparaiso
 Amitav Thamba, father of Aish Thamba, Fishers
 Wiley Traylor, father of Stephanie Traylor, Mooresville•

IN HONOR OF GEORGE WINGATE HIGH SCHOOL

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to honor George Wingate High School in Brooklyn, NY. Wingate High School, my alma mater, will graduate its last class on June 27, 2006.

In 1954, Wingate High School accepted its first class of students and had its first graduating class in 1957. It was the first high school built in New York after the end of World War II, and it embodied many of the ideals of the

baby boomer generation. Wingate High School was so different from the standard design plan for schools that it became known as "The Banjo School" because of its open design.

Wingate High School was also innovative in its approach to teaching. Instead of focusing strictly on academic classes, Wingate was one of the first high schools in the Nation to offer a comprehensive range of classes in vocational, commercial and academic fields. Wingate High School has been known for its outstanding aviation, culinary arts, nursing and law programs, and many of its students have gone on to become successful pilots, chefs, nurses and attorneys.

Wingate has had a few famous graduates such as former New York State senator and current Brooklyn Borough president, Marty Markowitz, and Roger Brown, a New York City playground legend who went on to greatness in the American Basketball Association. However, thousands of other Wingate graduates have made priceless contributions to their communities, in part because of the valuable lessons they learned there.

I firmly believe that a quality education is the key to our youths' success and our nation's future. I commend Wingate's teachers, faculty, staff, and volunteers for their many years of hard work and dedication to Wingate High School's students. Their work has resulted in thousands of students who are better prepared to face the world and its challenges. I commend them for their commitment to quality education. Their enthusiasm and love of teaching means a brighter future for all of our children.

Wingate High School's motto is: "Ad Astra per Ardua"—"To the stars through struggle." In its 52-year history, George Wingate High School has graduated thousands of students who have gone on to make the world a better place. Though the journey has not always been easy, I know that Wingate's 2006 graduates will go on to do great things.

I give my most sincere congratulations and best wishes for the future to Wingate High School's Class of 2006.●

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

• Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I rise in support of the National History Day program. A basic knowledge of history is essential for our Nation's children to become active participants in our democracy, and National History Day is promoting history education in Minnesota and throughout the Nation. National History Day empowers teachers to improve history education so that every student will have historical knowledge and skills to contribute to the public good of our Nation. The National History Day program also allows students to create exhibits, documentaries and performances, by using their critical thinking and research skills in the subject of history.

It brings me great pleasure to pay special tribute to Emily Brown, as she is recognized for her scholastic achievements in National History Day.

Emily is a student at Sunrise Park Middle School in White Bear Lake, MN, and was one of 12 students chosen from across America to display and present her history project at the White House Visitors Center on June 15. Emily's project is titled "The Iron Jawed Angel: Alice Paul takes a stand for women's right to vote."

I congratulate Emily as she is honored for her presentation and commend her for her dedication and commitment. I join with the citizens of Minnesota in wishing Emily well in all her future endeavors.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF STEELE, NORTH DAKOTA

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I recognize a community in North Dakota that will be celebrating its 125th anniversary. On June 30–July 2, the residents of Steele will gather to celebrate their community's history and founding.

Steele is a thriving community in North Dakota. The city was founded by Wilbur F. Steele in 1878. He purchased the land from the railroad and had hopes that the city would house the State capitol. Mr. Steele constructed a building in the city to serve as a place for the legislature to meet. Since Steele was not chosen as the State's capital, the building became the Kidder County Courthouse, which is still in use today.

Steele is best known for its 38½ foot high Sandhill Crane. This piece of art was inspired by the numerous birds and ducks that migrate through Steele each year. Steele has plenty to offer to its residents and visitors, from the golf course and parks to fishing, hunting, and crosscountry skiing.

The community has planned a wonderful weekend celebration to commemorate its 125th anniversary. The celebration includes an all school reunion, parade, fireworks, auction, outdoor concert, a street dance, and much more.

Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in congratulating Steele, ND, and its residents on their first 125 years and in wishing them well through the next century. By honoring Steele and all the other historic small towns of North Dakota, we keep the great pioneering frontier spirit alive for future generations. It is places such as Steele that have helped to shape this country into what it is today, which is why this fine community is deserving of our recognition.

Steele has a proud past and a bright future.●

ASSOCIATION OF ENERGY SERVICE COMPANIES 50TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 50th anniversary

of the Association of Energy Service Companies and the beneficial contributions it has made to the oil and gas industry since February 1956. This organization has helped unite the oil and gas industry and advocates the most efficient production models for all of the member companies, resulting in vastly superior oil and gas operations across the Nation.

The association formed when six service contractors met and formed the Association of Oil Well Servicing Companies to combat increasing governmental regulations, rising insurance costs, and the rising difficulty in employee recruitment. With Mr. Frank Poole appointed as the first president, the association began to gradually grow and gain prominence in the oil and gas industry. Soon after formation, the group grew to represent 35 wells and 15 trucks and eventually placed an association chapter in 17 oil-producing States.

Over the past 50 years, the organization has blossomed from 6 members to over 400. The association currently boasts representation of over 70 percent of the well-servicing rigs in domestic oil production. In 1996, due to a rapidly growing national membership and expansive chapter representation, the Association of Oil Well Servicing Companies changed their name to the Association of Energy Service Companies.

The AESC continues to lead the oil and gas industry by providing a host of services including safety training and seminars on current and new technology, environmental protection initiatives, monthly meetings of State and local chapters, as well as national meetings, conferences, and tradeshow.

Mr. President, as the members of the AESC prepare to celebrate 50 years of dedicated service, I extend my congratulations to all of those members who have remained committed to excellence in the oil and gas industry. In a world driven by oil and gas production and consumption, this organization has provided guidance and regulation to maintain equal standards in a competitive industry. For the next 50 years and beyond, I sincerely hope this organization's leadership and dedication to fairness remains as strong as it has been the past 50 years.●

TRIBUTE TO ROGER MEIER

● Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to a great man, Roger Meier.

The late Oregon Governor Tom McCall once said, "Heroes are not giant statues framed against a red sky. They are people who say, 'This is my community and it is my responsibility to make it better.'"

When Roger Meier passed away on June 5, I lost a trusted friend and Oregon lost a true hero. Through leadership, vision, and generosity, Roger made his community of Portland and his State of Oregon a better place in which to live, work, and raise a family.

Roger was a fourth-generation Oregonian and a descendant of the founders of the Meier and Frank Company, one of Oregon's most beloved institutions. Roger spent 13 years working in the family business before venturing out on his own and serving as president and CEO of a privately owned investment company for more than 30 years.

Roger earned a reputation as a savvy analyst of the business and financial scene. He put his intelligence and knowledge to work for all Oregonians, serving for 13 years as chairman of the Oregon Investment Council, which helps to manage pension funds for Oregon's public employees. Under his stewardship, Oregon's portfolio of investments grew from \$400 million to \$7 billion.

Roger was also a tireless advocate for and a generous philanthropist to countless worthy causes and charitable organizations, including the Oregon Health Sciences University, Good Samaritan Hospital, and the Oregon Historical Society. Roger and his wonderful and gracious wife of 54 years, Laura, also had a special love of art. Along with their good friends, Pete and Mary Mark, Roger and Laura's generosity has helped to make the Portland Art Museum into a world-class institution.

It was fitting that a memorial tribute to Roger was held at the Portland Art Museum on June 11. My predecessor, Senator Mark Hatfield, spoke at the service and said that there was one word he believed best summed up Roger: gentleman.

Senator Hatfield was right. A man of courtesy, kindness, honesty and integrity, Roger Meier was a true gentleman. He will be greatly missed by Laura, by his daughters Alix and Jill and their families, by his friends, and by the community and State he served so ably.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY

● Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize South Dakota State University, which is celebrating its 125th year anniversary.

Over the past 125 years, SDSU has proven to its students, faculty, and alumni that "you can go anywhere from here." South Dakota State University, or SDSU, was founded in 1881 as the primary agriculture university in my home State of South Dakota, and 125 years later it now holds the distinction of being the State's largest university. SDSU not only provides students with an excellent academic environment, but beginning in 2004, the SDSU Jackrabbits started participating in NCAA Division I athletics.

It gives me great pleasure to rise with the students, faculty, and alumni of South Dakota State University in celebrating their 125th year anniversary and wish them continued success in the years to come.●